

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-12, 14, 18, 22-25, 27-32, 36-42, 44, 46, 55-57, 60-66, 68, 69, 72, and 73 are pending.

A clean copy of the pending claims with amendments incorporated is attached to this response for the Examiner's convenience.

In the May 24, 2005 office action the examiner allowed the subject matter of claim 21, which was ultimately dependent on independent claim 18. To capture this subject matter, Applicant has moved the limitations of claim 21 (and claims 20 and 19 upon which 21 depended) into independent claim 18. (Accordingly, claims 19-21 have now been canceled). In other words, the allowed subject matter has now been set forth in independent claim 18.

Moreover, Applicant has additionally moved these limitations into the other independent claims as well—i.e., claims 1, 32, and 55, and submits that these claims are now allowable as well.¹

In short, Applicant believes that he has now amended the claims so that they contain only subject matter which the Examiner would consider allowable in light of the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that pending claims 1, 5-12, 14, 18, 22-25, 27-32, 36-42, 44, 46, 55-57, 60-66, 68, 69, 72, and 73 are now allowable and patentable, and requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Please feel free to contact the undersigned with any questions.

¹ The particular combination of limitations present in allowed claim 21 were not present in the claim set accompanying independent claims 1, 32, and 55, and so Applicant assumes this is why no dependent claim in those sets were deemed by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. In any event, now that these independent claims have been amended to incorporate these same limitations from claim 21, they should be allowable as well.

Respectfully submitted,



Terril Lewis, Reg. No. 46,065

CUSTOMER NO. 29855

Wong, Cabello, Lutsch,
Rutherford & Bruculeri, L.L.P.
20333 SH 249
Suite 600
Houston, TX 77070
Phone: 832-446-2422
Fax: 832-446-2424

8/17/05